

Appl. No. 09/182,842  
Amdt. dated September 8, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 2, 2004

PATENT

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 2, 2004. Entry of this Amendment is requested.

In this Amendment, claims 1, 7, and 13 are amended to improve their form, and claim 18 is canceled.

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-17 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

In the Office Action, claim 18 is rejected as obvious over Iwasaki and Uwabo. Claim 18 is also rejected as obvious over Kaneda and Darden.

These rejections are traversed. However, to expedite the prosecution, claim 18 is canceled. Since the remaining claims are allowed claims 1, 3-11, and 13-17, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick R. Jewik  
Reg. No. 40,456

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: 415-576-0200  
Fax: 415-576-0300  
PRJ  
60302327 v1